MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, the remaining two questions of mine have not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. You should have asked only one question, not three. Anyway, now Mr. Chavan.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, looking at the population explosion and the condition of water scarcity in certain areas and the condition of floods in different areas, we would have to think in terms of bigger projects which can, in fact, connect surplus water areas with least water areas. As the hon. Minister said, there has been some kind of a preliminary study on this. Would he kindly enlighten the House as to how much surplus water has been found in the preliminary study which he has referred to; and whether the Government has any definite plan of action to implement the recommendations of this group?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the inter-linking of rivers between the Himalayan region and the Peninsular region will help us to irrigate an additional area of 25 million hectares.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: How much extra water has been found in the perennial rivers of the Himalayan region?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: We have extra water in the Himalayan region, especially, in the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna basins. We have surplus water. We are thinking to connect these rivers with the Southern rivers, the Peninsular rivers so that the surplus water in the Himalayan rivers can be transported to the Deccan area. By this, we can irrigate 25 million hectares of land.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Airport infrastructure in the North-East

*223. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the immediate airport infrastructure problems of the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to resolve them in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) A Task Force under the chairmanship of the then Secretary (Civil Aviation) was constituted in December, 1998 to *inter alia* examine and make recommendations for improving airport infrastructure in the North Eastern region. The major recommendations of the Task Force and the action taken are as follows:

S.No.	Recommendation	Action Taken
1.	Completion of terminal buildings at Agartala, Imphal, Guwahati, Tezpur and Lilabari by the scheduled date.	Terminal building at Guwahati, Tezpur and Imphal have been completed. The terminal building projects at Lilabari and Agartala are likely to be completed by September, 2001 and March, 2002 respectively.
2.	Construction of terminal building at Lengpui, Tura by State Government.	Completed.
3.	New terminal building at Dibrugarh.	State Government has been requested to hand over the land urgently to AAI for taking up the work.
4.	Extension of runways at Agartala, Silchar, Lilabari and Dibrugarh to a minimum of 7500 ft and completion of work of runway at Lilabari.	The runway work at Lilabari has been completed. At Agartala the runway work is likely to be completed by February, 2003. At Silchar airport land has been acquired.
5.	Approach road from city centres to airports.	State Governments/local authorities have been requested to improve and widen approach roads from city centres to airports.

S.No.	Recommendation	Action Taken
6.	Improvement of road link between Itanagar and Lilabari.	State Governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have been requested for improvement of road links between Itanagar and Lilabari.
7.	Provision of navigational aids/ approach lights at Silchar, Tezpur, Dimapur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lengpui, Barapani and Lilabari.	Navigational aids have been installed at Lilabari airport. Orders have been placed for ILS at Silchar and Lilabari. At other airports the matter is at planning stage.
8.	Joint survey for provision of night operations at Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Lilabari and Silchar airports.	Joint survey for provision of night operations at Dibrugarh and Silchar airports have been carried out. Navigational aids and runway lights are being planned at Lilabari, Dibrugarh and Silchar airports. Air Headquarters have been requested for providing night landing facilities at Jorhat.
9.	Removal of obstacles around airports at Agartala, Pasighat, Tura, Dimapur and Lilabari.	Obstacles have been removed at Agartala and Tura airport. State Governments have been requested for removal of obstructions at Pasighat, Dimapur and Lilabari airports.
10.	Safety related works at Imphal, Shillong, Silchar, Dimapur and Dibrugarh airports.	Action has been taken for construction of perimeter road/wall at Imphal, Shillong, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Dimapur.
11.	Grant in aid instead of loan to AAI by NEC for airport projects in North East.	NEC is providing funds in the form of grant up to 60% of the project cost for the projects approved by NEC.

An amount of Rs. 143 crores has been spent by Airports Authority of India towards improvement of airport infrastructure in the North East region in the last 3 years.